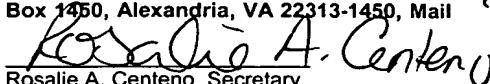


17264 U.S. PTO
09/11/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
"Express Mail" Mailing Label Number EV292 353 381 US

Date of Deposit September 11, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, Mail Stop: Patent Application.


Rosalie A. Centeno, Secretary

Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: New U.S. Patent Application under 37 CFR 1.53(b) – Helmut Schlessmann et al

CATALYTIC CONVERTER

Sir:

1. Please find enclosed herewith for filing: 9 pages specification, 3 pages claims (16), 1 page abstract, combined declaration and power of attorney, and 3 pages drawings (4 figures) in support of the above identified application.
2. It is respectfully requested that this application be granted the priority date of September 17, 2002, the filing date of the corresponding German patent application 102 42 869.7, a certified copy of which is attached herewith.
3. Also enclosed herewith is an assignment from the inventors, Helmut Schlessmann, Jörg Schlossarczyk and Holger Lochmann to Andreas Stihl AG & Co., KG, Badstrasse 115, D-71336 Waiblingen/ Germany, which you will kindly record at the Patent and Trademark Office.
4. I am enclosing my check in the amount of \$790.00* to cover the official fees of:

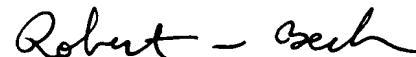
Basic fee \$750.00

Additional fees:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Total number of claims in excess of 20 (# claims times \$18.00) | \$ 00.00 |
| Number of independent claims in excess of 3 (# claims times \$84.00) | \$ 00.00 |
| Assignment recording fee | \$ 40.00 |
| TOTAL FEE | \$790.00 |

* It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and any fees required or any shortages of fees required be charged to Deposit Account 02-1653.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert W. Becker, Reg. No. 26,255
for applicants

ROBERT W. BECKER & ASSOCIATES
707 Highway 66 East, Suite B
Tijeras, New Mexico 87059
Telephone: (505) 286-3511
Facsimile: (505) 286-3524

RWB:rac

22388 U.S. PTO
10/659839

09/11/03